

the sides of the head. These differences are small, but evident when the insects are side by side. Finally, the rarer species has the antennae, especially the first two funicular segments, distinctly shorter; the tarsi slenderer, notably the claw-joint, and the lobes of the preceding one smaller.

The characters given by Joy (1932, *Pract. Handb. Brit. Beet.*, 1: 199-200) to separate these two species are quite unusable. Since he places *C. palustris* Edm. between them, I should perhaps add that this 'species' (of which I have examined a specimen from the type material) is only a dwarf form of the common and variable *C. floralis* with the scales of the upper surface incompletely developed and hair-like. — A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

THE BIOLOGY OF ISOTRIAS RECTIFASCIANA (HAWORTH).—Although this is a common species, its life history is still unknown. A pupa was once beaten from hawthorn, giving rise to the belief that that was the foodplant. Mr. J. M. Chalmers-Hunt obtained ova from a captured female and gave the resultant larvae the foliage of hawthorn and elm. This they accepted with apparent reluctance, for casualties were high and the survivors disappeared during the winter. The adults frequent lanes and hedgerows and are usually encountered singly or in small numbers.

It therefore came as a surprise during a visit to the ranges at Foulness, Essex on the 22nd of June to encounter a vigorous colony on a sea-wall overlooking salt-marsh; there was not a tree or bush in sight. The moths were flying freely around, and settling on, sea-beet (*Beta vulgaris* subsp. *maritima*) and golden samphire (*Inula crithmoides*), the tallest plants present, at about 7.30pm. I probably saw as many moths in five minutes as one normally sees in as many seasons and they had certainly bred on the spot.

The inference is that the larvae are polyphagous on herbaceous plants or, perhaps more probably, that they feed on decaying vegetation. If I can obtain the necessary permit, I should like to collect leaf-litter from the sea-wall in late autumn or early spring to see if it contains larvae.—A. M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3AF. 25 June 1981.

BLAIR'S SHOULDER-KNOT: LITHOPHANE LEAUTIERI BOISD. IN THE ISLE OF SHEPPEY, KENT.—This moth, new to Sheppey, appeared regularly in my garden m.v. trap in 1980. It first appeared on September 6 continuing till October 12, and on September 20 over 30 were noted.—F. H. CLOUTER, Helice, Glendale Road, Minster-in-Sheppey, Kent.

THE PAINTED LADY: CYNTHIA CARDUI L. IN 1981.—In spite of indifferent weather, I saw one Painted Lady in Newton Dale (north of Pickering) on 12th June 1981, which may be a good omen for the species in Yorkshire.—S. M. JACKSON, 22 Armoury Road, Selby, N. Yorkshire YO8 0AY.